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Black rhino
Diceros bicornis
In-situ population¹ 6,487

IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION
Critically Endangered Considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

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White rhino
Ceratotherium simum
In-situ population¹ 16,803

IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION
Near Threatened Is close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future.

The Northern white rhino subspecies is functionally extinct, with only two individuals (both female) left. The Southern white rhino accounts for all other white rhinos.

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Javan rhino
Rhinoceros sondaicus
In-situ population¹ 76

IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION
Critically Endangered Considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

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Greater one-horned rhino
Rhinoceros unicornis
In-situ population¹ 4,018

IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION
Vulnerable Considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

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Sumatran rhino
Dicerorhinus sumatrensis
In-situ population¹ Estimated 34-47

IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION
Critically Endangered Considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

Rhinos: what we see in 2023

The latest updates on global rhino numbers give cause for both optimism and concern. The situation remains extremely tough, especially for the two species in Indonesia. Yet, there are positive trends – predominantly in Africa – and signs of hope for all five species.

The ongoing impact of poaching

In 2022, there were 561 rhinos killed across Africa, a rise from 501 in 2021 and 503 in 2020. As in previous years, most of the rhinos poached on the continent were in South Africa. However, the areas facing the greatest pressure have shifted within the country. Fewer incidents were recorded year-on-year in Kruger National Park, which had previously been the poaching hotspot. Instead, in 2022 and so far in 2023, criminal syndicates have targeted reserves in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). Between January 2022 and July 2023, 387 rhinos were poached in the Province, compared to 126 between January 2020 and July 2021.

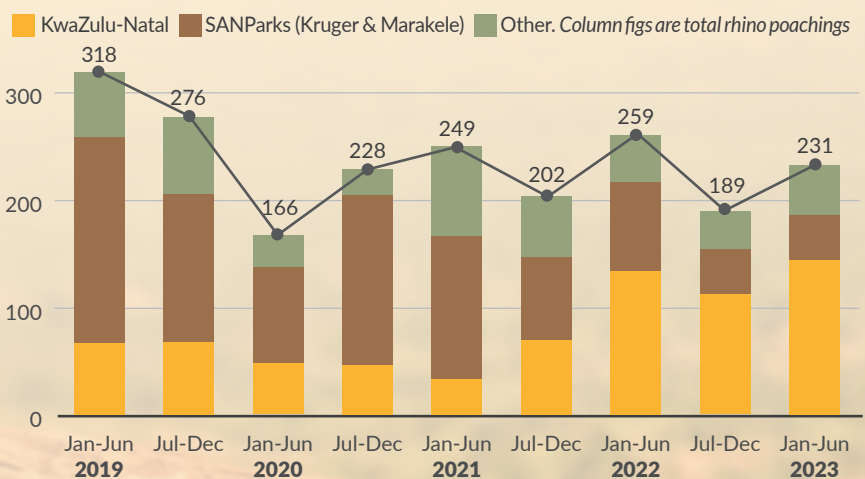
The threats from organised crime networks impact not only rhinos but also the people protecting them. Rangers in KZN continue to do everything they can to keep rhinos safe, but they are facing huge challenges and often under-resourced. Alongside our partners in KZN, we support ranger teams with vital equipment to help them every day. Many of you generously donated towards our Christmas appeal last year, helping to raise almost £50,000 in support of anti-poaching efforts in KZN. Your support went towards improving rangers' accommodation and equipment, renovating their on-duty houses

and upgrading technology, to enable dedicated teams at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park and uMkhuze Game Reserve to work as safely and effectively as possible.

Whilst the number of rhinos poached remains a concern, there has been a marked decline from the peak of the crisis in 2015, when 1,349 rhinos were poached across Africa. And there are important milestones to be celebrated: Kenya recorded zero rhino poaching losses during 2022! Importantly, the continental poaching rate for Africa now sits below the rate of population growth, meaning that more rhinos are being born than being killed and numbers are on the up!

In Asia, poaching incidents are infrequent, but they do occur. Between January and September 2023, five Greater one-horned rhinos were poached in India and Nepal. Efforts to keep the species protected, boost investigation skills and increase the knowledge of people working in the judicial system are ongoing. The rise in illegal activities within Ujung Kulon National Park is a serious concern, particularly given reports of ongoing investigations by the Government of Indonesia into the recent unnatural death of a Javan rhino.

Total rhinos poached in South Africa 2019– June 2023 Six-month periods



Current populations

On World Rhino Day this year, we shared the good news that three rhino species have increased in population size since 2021. What's more, these changes meant an increase in the overall number of rhinos in the world for the first time since 2015—reaching just beyond 27,000 at the end of 2022.

The increase in the global rhino population has been thanks to dedicated protection and strategic biological management interventions resulting in higher numbers of both African species (**black and white rhinos**). These interventions (including the expansion of rhino range due to establishment of new populations) have resulted in more rhinos being born and higher growth rates, despite simultaneous increases in poaching losses across the continent.

In India and Nepal, **Greater one-horned rhino** numbers have also increased slightly, meaning an ongoing positive trend for the species. As with black and white rhinos, Greater one-horned rhinos remain under threat from international trafficking networks and keeping every animal safe is crucial. In addition, they need additional secure and connected spaces for new populations to maintain their growth.

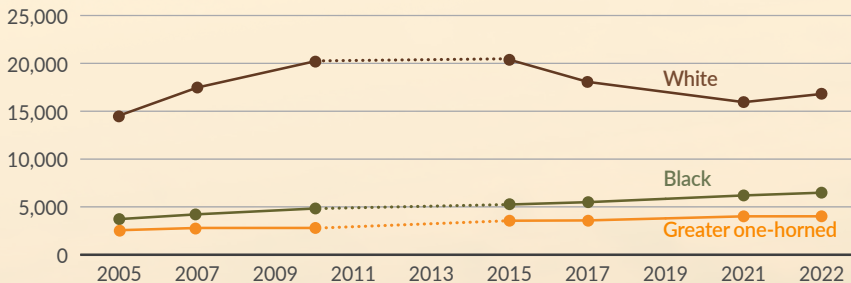


The two rhino species in Indonesia face a much more critical situation. Official government reports on **Sumatran rhinos** estimate that fewer than 80 individuals remain, though recent reports put this number at potentially just 34–47. With so few animals left in small and fragmented patches of dense forest, Sumatran rhinos seem to struggle to find each other and mate. Yet there is hope. The Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) in Way Kambas National Park was created to provide rhinos with round-the-clock care to maximise

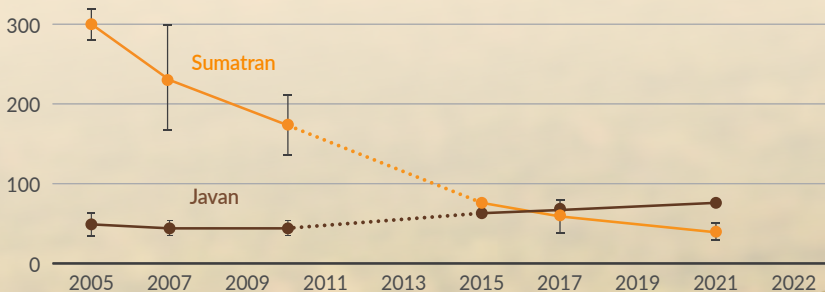
their breeding success. On 30 September 2023, there was exciting news demonstrating the value of this sanctuary, when a female rhino was born (find out more about her on page 19).

A new calf also recently joined the last remaining **Javan rhino** population: camera traps recorded the first sighting of an animal of approximately six months old between July and September 2023. However, with an estimated total population of just 76 individuals, all of which live in Ujung Kulon National Park, the species remains at considerable risk. Not only does this Park occur on the western tip of the island of Java close to an active volcano, there are also signs of a rise in illegal incursions and activities in the Park. It's also concerning that 12 rhinos in this population have not been recorded for at least three years.

White, Black and Greater one-horned rhino population estimates 2005–22²



Sumatran and Javan rhino population estimates 2005–21²



¹In the rhino range states in which they naturally occur.

²Population numbers are as reported to CITES by the African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups